GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:9
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003
TAJ HERITAGE CORRIDOR PROJECT
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

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(a) whether construction of the Taj Heritage Corridor Project has been undertaken on the bank of Yamuna just behind the Taj Mahal; (

(b) if so , the details thereof including the estimated cost of the project; (

(c) whether the Union Minister, in his recent visit has observed that the project was in contravention of Environmental laws as well as Protection of Archaeological Sites and Remains Act; (

(d) if so, whether the requisite clearance was obtained by the Government of Uttar Pradesh from the concerned ministries; (

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; (

(f) whether the Union Government have instructed the Government of Uttar Pradesh to stall the project and undo the damage caused; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken against the State Government and the officers involved?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a),(b), (c), (d), (e), (f) & (g) The Government of U.P. has taken up reclamation work in river Yamuna without any approval of the Taj Heritage Corridor Project from the Ministry of Environment and Forests.On 16th July, 2003 the Hon`ble Supreme Court of India has ordered Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to inquire into the entire issue and submit an Interim Report to the Hon`ble Court within a period of four weeks and has given two months time for the submission of the final report by CBI whereafter appropriate orders will be passed. The matter is, therefore, sub-judice.